AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim I (Currently Amended): A multilayer decoupling and sealing system, for laying ceramic paving by using a thin-bed method, with a sealing layer that is impermeable to liquid, characterized in that above the sealing layer that is impermeable to liquid that is of a non-woven anchoring material or a polymer sealing layer with non-woven anchoring material arranged on both sides there is an anchoring layer formed from a lattice-type structural element for incorporating filler material which is plastic when being applied and subsequently hardens within the anchoring layer, a reinforcing layer being arranged rigidly above the anchoring layer, at least in sections: <u>i said</u> system comprising:

a sealing layer that is impermeable to liquid, said sealing layer consisting of a non-woven anchoring material or a polymer sealing layer having non-woven anchor material disposed on either side of said polymer sealing layer; an anchoring layer that is configured from a lattice-type structural element and configured to hold a filler material that is to be incorporated into the upper face of the decoupling and sealing system,

said filler being plastic during processing and subsequently cures; and a reinforcing layer which, at least in some sections, is rigidly disposed above said to the anchoring layer.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined Claim 1, characterized in that the lattice-type structural element is formed from individual rods that are disposed to one another in the manner of a lattice and fixed to one another at the points of intersection of the lattice.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 2, characterized in that the individual rods of the lattice-type structural element are of an essentially rectangular cross section.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined Claim 2, characterized in that the intersecting individual rods of the lattice-type structural element, are so arranged that a first layer consists of identically oriented individual rods beneath a second layer of individual rods that are disposed at an angle thereto and are in each instance oriented identically to one another.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 2, characterized in that the lattice-type structure of the individual rods is in the form of a rhombus, a rectangle, or a square.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 4, characterized in that the individual rods of the two layers are welded to one another at the points of intersection (9) when under mechanical pressure.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 2, characterized in that the individual rods of the lattice-type structural element have edge areas that are slanted towards one another, at least at their points of intersection, thereby forming undercut sections on the individual rods.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 4, characterized in that a continuous vapour pressure equalizing layer (6) is interposed in each instance between the first and second layer of individual rods.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 8, characterized in that the vapour pressure equalizing layer is formed by a polyethylene film.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer is welded onto the anchoring layer.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer is cemented onto the anchoring layer.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and scaling system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer is in the form of a lattice-type textile, to provide for secure anchoring with the filler material that is to be incorporated on top of the decoupling and scaling system.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer (5) extends beyond the other layers at least in individual edge areas of the decoupling and sealing system so as to create a transition to other sections of the decoupling and sealing system.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the decoupling and sealing system is laid so as to float on a substratum.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the decoupling and sealing system is <u>cemented to laid rigidly</u>, on a substratum.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the sealing layer is formed from a polymer sealing layer, in particular from a polyethylene sealing layer.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing, system as defined Claim 16, characterized in that the polymer sealing layer has—at least on its underside—non-woven material for anchoring to the substratum.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the sealing layer extends beyond the other layers of the decoupling and sealing system, at least in individual edge areas, so as to create a transition area that is impermeable to liquids to other sections of the decoupling and sealing system.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the thickness of the anchoring layer is between 2 and 6 mm.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the overall thickness of the decoupling and sealing system is between 2 and 8 mm.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that after the incorporation of the filler material, the anchoring layer is essentially completely filled with the filler material and the reinforcing layer that is imbedded in the hardened filler material performs a stiffening and reinforcing function with respect to mechanical loads applied from above.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the decoupling and sealing system is configured as a façade element that is ventilated from behind.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): Decoupling and sealing system as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the decoupling and sealing system is configured as a barrier element, in particular a barrier element that is of polystyrol.